

# ALABAMA BAPTIST.

ORGAN OF THE BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION.

MONTGOMERY, ALA.

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## ALABAMA BAPTIST.

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ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATIONS:—Will always find their way to the right basket. The name of the author should be sent for the editor's use.

TO CORRESPONDENTS:—Do not use abbreviations; be extra careful in writing proper names; write with ink on one side of the paper; do not write copy intended for the editor, and business items on the same sheet. Leave off personalities; condense.

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REMITTANCES:—Should be made by Postal or Express Money Order, Registered Letter, Express or Bank Check, payable to The Alabama Baptist Company.

ADVERTISERS:—Will find it to their interest to write for terms. This paper has a wide circulation in Alabama among the 100,000 white Baptists.

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### RAILROAD RATES.

Rev. O. F. Gregory, one of the secretaries of the Southern Baptist Convention, has issued a circular announcing the names of the railroads which give a rate of one fare for the round trip to Norfolk and return. The following are the roads in which most of our readers are interested:

Western Railway of Alabama, Atlanta & West Point, Central of Georgia, Memphis & Charleston, Louisville & Nashville, Mobile & Birmingham, the Plant System, the Southern, and the Seaboard Air Line. Tickets will be of the iron-clad signature form.

The Norfolk & Washington Steamboat Co. will make a round-trip rate of \$3.50 to those who wish to visit Washington City. The route is by Chesapeake bay and Potomac river.

In North Carolina eighty-six

churches, whom the official Recorder says are "the truest and ablest among us," have agreed to do voluntary mission work in connection with the State board. They will give ten days of service each year for four years; with weak churches and in destitute places, without charge, the board paying only their railroad fare. Thus at comparatively small labor from 36 men—360 days, equal to the labor of one man for two years, four months and ten days—each year for four years; and in the four years time the labor given will amount to the work of one man for nine years, five months and ten days. Now, can we not do something like that in Alabama? We believe it can be done, even if on a smaller scale. The ten days may not necessarily be given at one time, nor at one place; it to the brethren we believe he will receive a gratifying response.

Baptist Young People's Union.

The Baptist Young People's Union Auxiliary of the Southern Baptist Convention will meet in the First Baptist church, corner Granby and E. Main street, Norfolk, Va., May 5th, 10 a. m. The following program will be presented:

I. Appointment of committees.

1. Enrollment.

2. Nominations for officers and State Managers.

3. Time and place and program for next meeting.

4. Finance.

II. Corresponding Secretary's report.

III. Addresses.

1. "Results of a Young People's Organization," by Rev. D. M. Ramsey, D. D., Charleston, S. C.

2. "Our Denominational Wastefulness," by Rev. Geo. W. Truett, Dallas, Texas.

3. "The Need and Opportunity of Doctrinal Instruction in the Local Union," by Rev. Carter Helm Jones, D. D., Louisville, Ky.

IV. Reports of committees.

V. Adjournment.

All Young People's Societies in Baptist churches are entitled to one delegate for each twenty-five members, or major fraction thereof; churches with no Young People's Society to one delegate for each fifty members or major fraction thereof.

W. W. GAINES, Recording Secretary.

We ought to prove that we are Christians, and not heathen, by our interest in higher things than the Gentiles seek.

### The Ministry of Sickness.

Sickness is not a sign of grace.

It is not necessarily a means of grace. Some, under the grasp of disease, bend suddenly to their fate, or murmur at God's providence, or at the best think that their sickness is so much time lost. But if the heart be teachable, sickness has a blessed ministry.

We learn our helplessness and dependence on a sick bed as nowhere else. Our self-confidence and independence gradually leave us as we grow weaker. We thought ourselves so useful; and yet as we lie on the sick bed, we see the great machinery of the world moves on without our help, without even noticing our absence. Instead of helping we need help. This teaches us, too, the value of the ministry of friends and dear ones. We never knew the value of a home circle before. When a person is sick, and sympathy they have no other; Ready hands supply our wants; and during the days and nights, when, perhaps we knew them not, the same tireless watchers look upon us with pitying eyes, endeavoring to anticipate our every want. We get proper views of the relative value of temporal and eternal things from a sick bed. Our anxieties about ordinary matters of worldly concern steadily diminish as our disease advances, until at length, when we hold the world with but a feeble and loosening grasp, we wonder at the intensity of interest we are wont to take in it. Much that we thought so much of before seems worthless now. And as proportion as earth seems to dwindle on the vision; in the same ratio do eternal verities grow in importance and interest. Sickness seems to take us aside and place us alone with God. The sick-room is a sanctuary in which to hold communion with God. Nowhere else does God more fully reveal to us the power and preciousness of religion.

My heart goes out in sympathy for those who are sick. May sickness prove a benediction to them, and may their hearts be filled with the "peace of God that passeth all understanding."

If health comes again, may they go back to the duties of life wiser and happier than before. If they are to leave us, may they walk down into the valley of the Shadows with the tread of victory.

J. H. CURRY.

For the Alabama Baptist.

Must Be Done.

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### For the Alabama Baptist.

The Campos Baptist Mission.

By the time you receive this the month designated by the brethren in the United States for prayer on behalf of needy Brazil. I want to give you some little information about this land so that you may be enabled to pray intelligently, and with success. I am only giving you news about the Campos Mission, because it is the one in which I am working. I am sure that the other missionaries will give you the information needed about their respective fields of labor.

This mission comprises an extensive district occupied by nearly two millions of souls. The central work, situated in the city of Campos, has under its care the Campos county, which counts over an hundred thousand inhabitants. We have great facilities of reaching the interior, as there are many railroads, and different parts of the interior. We are enabled to carry on an extensive interior work, preaching every Sunday in six different places, and had we more laborers, in many more places the gospel could be announced freely.

Our work was begun seven years ago. Bro. Bagby, our zealous missionary, arrived here and was impressed with the importance of the district. He preached the gospel with success, for, before leaving, he had the pleasure to baptize some, and soon after was enabled to organize a church.

Not being able to keep up the work, he invited Bro. Soper and Bro. Downing to station here. They succeeded, and during their stay the work prospered considerably.

On account of sickness in the family both missionaries were obliged to leave, and I arrived here in 1893. Thanks to the Almighty, we have been enjoying very good health, and hope, the Lord permitting, to end our days here.

That the cause has prospered no one can deny. Seven years ago Bro. Bagby organized a church here with ten or twelve members. When Bro. Downing left for the States there were about fifty members in full standing with the church. That was in 1893. Since then the church has grown marvelously. The city church now counts nearly two hundred members. From her midst were organized three other churches, with another five ready to follow. In 1894 the San Fidelis church was organized with five members. Now it counts

thirty members, and is doing well.

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